

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of mapping information to a virtual space, the method comprising,  
2 employing a first plurality of data objects contained within a first data source,  
3 employing a first spatial paradigm for defining a first plurality of hierarchical  
4 relationships between said first plurality of data objects, and  
5 virtually locating said first plurality of data objects in a first portion of said virtual  
6 space through which a user can navigate in a substantially unrestricted fashion.
  
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising associating a first address with said first  
2 portion of said virtual display space.
  
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising displaying a subset of said first plurality of  
2 said data objects to said user in response to receiving said first address.
  
- 1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of associating further comprises,  
2 associating a first portion of said first address with a server, and  
3 associating a second portion of said first address with said first plurality of  
4 hierarchical relationships.
  
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said server is at least one of a virtual server, a physical  
2 server, an Internet server, an intranet server and a remote server.

PCT/EP2006/002610

1       6. The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling a user to view from an adjustable  
2       viewing perspective an appearance of a subset of said first plurality of data objects.

1       7. The method of claim 6 further comprising enabling said user to navigate said data  
2       objects in a substantially and unrestricted fashion.

1       8. The method of claim 1 further comprising,  
2              employing a second plurality of data objects contained within a second data  
3       source,  
4              employing a second spatial paradigm for defining a second plurality of  
5       hierarchical relationships between said second plurality of data objects, and  
6              virtually locating said second plurality of data objects in a second portion of said  
7       virtual space.

1       9. The method of claim 8 further comprising defining a hierarchical relationship in said  
2       virtual space between said first plurality of hierarchical relationships and said second  
3       plurality of hierarchical relationships

1       10. The method of claim 8 further comprising associating a second address with said  
2       second position of said virtual space.

1       11. The method of claim 10 further comprising enabling a user to display from an  
2       adjustable viewing perspective an appearance of a subset of any of said first and said  
3       second plurality of data objects.

1       12. The method of claim 1 further comprising leasing portions of said virtual space.

1       13. The method of claim 1 further comprising selling portions of said virtual space.

1       14. The method of claim 2 wherein said first address is associated with a universal  
2       resource locator ("URL").

1       15. A system for mapping information to a virtual display space, the system comprising,  
2            a computing device adapted to employ a first plurality of data objects contained  
3       within a first data source, and a first spatial paradigm for defining a first plurality of  
4       hierarchical relationships between said first plurality of data objects, and to virtually  
5       locate said first plurality of data objects in a first portion of said virtual space through  
6       which a user can navigate in a substantially unrestricted fashion.

1       16. The system of claim 15 further adapted to associate a first address with said first  
2       portion of said virtual display space.

1       17. The system of claim 16 further adapted to displaying a subset of said first plurality of  
2       said data objects to said user in response to receiving said first address.

1       18. The system of claim 16 further adapted to associate a first portion of said first  
2       address with a server, and to associate a second portion of said first address with said first  
3       plurality of hierarchical relationships.

1       19. The system of claim 18 wherein said server is at least one of a virtual server, a  
2       physical server, an Internet server, an intranet server and a remote server.

1       20. The system of claim 15 further adapted to enable a user to view from an adjustable  
2       viewing perspective an appearance of a subset of said first plurality of data objects.

1       21. The system of claim 20 further adapted to enable said user to navigate said data  
2       objects in a substantially and unrestricted fashion.

1       22. The system of claim 15 further adapted to employ a second plurality of data objects  
2       contained within a second data source and a second spatial paradigm for defining a  
3       second plurality of hierarchical relationships between said second plurality of data  
4       objects, and to virtually locate said second plurality of data objects in a second portion of  
5       said virtual space.

- 1    23. The system of claim 22 further adapted to define a hierarchical relationship in said
- 2    virtual space between said first plurality of hierarchical relationships and said second
- 3    plurality of hierarchical relationships.
- 1    24. The system of claim 22 further adapted to associate a second address with said
- 2    second position of said virtual space.
- 1    25. The system of claim 24 further adapted to enable a user to display from an adjustable
- 2    viewing perspective an appearance of a subset of any of said first and said second
- 3    plurality of data objects.
- 1    26. The system of claim 15 further adapted to lease portions of said virtual space.
- 1    27. The system of claim 15 further adapted to sell portions of said virtual space.
- 1    28. The system of claim 15 wherein said first address is associated with a universal
- 2    resource locator ("URL").
- 1    29. A method of mapping information to a virtual space, the method comprising,  
2       employing a data object contained within a data source, and  
3       virtually locating said data object in a first portion of said virtual space through  
4       which a user can navigate in a substantially unrestricted fashion.